
CONCLUSION

California's salmon and steelhead trout resources are clearly at a crucial crossroad. Official statistics reflect a dismal record of habitat destruction and dwindling fish numbers.

Salmon and steelhead trout resources suffered deeply as California emerged from her frontier days and plunged into full-scale growth and development during the twentieth century.

There is little doubt, now, that the water and land use policies and practices so helpful in exploiting the state's water and land resource wealth, have unwittingly depleted the state's once-abundant anadromous fisheries resources.

The Advisory Committee was asked to investigate the causes of the decline and to develop ways to begin the healing process. It has sought information and guidance from

agencies and individuals, anglers, commercial fishermen and lawmakers, fisheries professionals and volunteers. Many of these Californians have been actively involved in developing stream restoration projects, drafting protective laws and informing the public about the condition of these fisheries. Their efforts offer hope and show that recovery is possible. *But the time for swift and decisive action is now.*

Salmon and steelhead trout have reached a critical moment in their 100 million years of evolution in this state. Such an ailing resource cannot indefinitely survive the onslaught of 'relentless environmental change.' If the salmon and steelhead trout resources are to sustain us, and the generations to come, we must proceed with intelligence and conviction. We must act to restore the balance now.

Salmon and steelhead stream with adequate flow, cool water, spawning riffles – a balanced ecosystem.



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